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James B. Goldstein
Director – Spectrum

September 27, 2006

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket Nos. 05-62
Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 26, 2006, Gina Keeney of Lawler, Metzger, Milkman & Keeney, LLC, outside counsel for Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint Nextel”), and I met with Fred Campbell, Chairman Kevin Martin’s Legal Advisor on Wireless Issues, to discuss the above-referenced proceeding.

Sprint Nextel responded to the *ex parte* letter filed in the above-captioned proceeding on September 1, 2006, by the United Telecom Council (“UTC”).¹ UTC erroneously claimed in its letter that there is no longer a significant demand for the expeditious auction of “white space” spectrum in the 900 MHz band, based on its belief that Sprint Nextel is no longer acquiring 900 MHz spectrum. UTC, however, failed to provide any evidence for this conclusion.

In response, Sprint Nextel at this meeting explained that over the past two years its has acquired and continues to acquire *hundreds* of “site-based” licenses in the 900 MHz band to gain additional spectrum capacity to support its dual-band 800 MHz/900 MHz iDEN network, which serves over 17 million customers. Sprint Nextel indicated its intention to continue to acquire additional 900 MHz spectrum from incumbent licensees on the secondary market to support its network and customers.

Sprint Nextel stressed that access to additional spectrum via an FCC auction would put to good use spectrum that has lain fallow for years. Significantly, Sprint Nextel noted that it cannot incorporate all of these acquired 900 MHz channels into its iDEN operations at this time; for these channels to be useful, they must first be aggregated with adjacent 900 MHz white space channels that are not currently licensed to any incumbent and that would be available only via an

¹ Letter from Jill Lyon, Counsel to United Telecom Council, to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WT Docket No. 05-62 (Sep. 1, 2006). This letter was filed to provide public notice of an *ex parte* meeting that included representatives of the Association of American Railroads, American Petroleum Institute, MRFAC, National Association of Manufacturers, United Parcel Service, and UTC.

FCC auction.² A near term 900 MHz auction would enable Sprint Nextel to integrate that newly purchased white space spectrum into its iDEN operations rapidly, along with previously acquired 900 MHz B/ILT channels.

Sprint Nextel and Mr. Campbell also discussed the existence of various solutions to concerns raised by commenters in this proceeding, notably continued access to 900 MHz spectrum in less populated rural markets.

For the aforementioned reasons, Sprint Nextel urges that the Commission expeditiously issue an order in its rulemaking on 900 MHz band issues and conduct an auction of 900 MHz white space.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b), this letter is being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

[James B. Goldstein](#)

James B. Goldstein
Director – Spectrum
Sprint Nextel Corporation

cc: Fred Campbell
Michelle Carey
Catherine Seidel
David Furth
Michael Wilhelm

² Under the 900 MHz channel plan adopted in 1986, the Commission assigns 900 MHz SMR and B/ILT channels on a 12.5 kHz bandwidth basis. *Amendment of Parts 2, 15, and 90 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations to Allocate Frequencies in the 900 MHz Reserve Band for Private Land Mobile Use*, 2 FCC Rcd 1825 (1986). Sprint Nextel's dual-band iDEN network is designed to provide service over 25 kHz channels, the channelization the Commission adopted for the 800 MHz band; as a result, a single, non-contiguous 12.5 kHz B/ILT channel pair cannot be incorporated into Sprint Nextel's iDEN digital, cellular network.